

# GLOVE & MASK RECYCLING

Glove and mask recycling program available to UBCO Labs.



**Glove & Mask Recycling Program**  
*Greening UBC Okanagan's Labs*

Congratulations on piloting the Glove and Mask Recycling Program in your Department!

**How the program works:**

**Step 1:** Place uncontaminated gloves and masks into the white collection bin.

**ACCEPTED MATERIAL:**

- ✓ All types of gloves, nitrile, vinyl and latex
- ✓ Masks: cloth and disposable types

**NOT ACCEPTED:**

- ✗ Gloves and masks that have been contaminated with chemicals, body fluids or biohazardous material.

**Step 2:** When full, contact Health, Safety and Environment and a representative will collect the gently used gloves and masks during their waste collection rounds.

Collector: Contact Health, Safety and Environment at [ghsu.ockan@ubc.ca](mailto:ghsu.ockan@ubc.ca)

Questions? Contact the Sustainability Office at [sustainability.ubc@ubc.ca](mailto:sustainability.ubc@ubc.ca)

LATEX, NITRILE, VINYL

By recycling gloves and masks through this program, you are ensuring that this material does not end up in the landfill. A nitrile glove can take up to 1,000 years to breakdown. A mask can take over 400 years to breakdown.

For more ways to reduce waste and save energy in life, visit [sustainability.ubc.ca](http://sustainability.ubc.ca)

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Thousands of single-use gloves and mask are used in UBC Okanagan labs each year and with the Covid-19 pandemic, more are being disposed of than ever.

UBC Okanagan's Sustainability Office, Campus Planning, and the Health, Safety and Environment Office partnered to implement a pilot program to collect single-use, uncontaminated gloves and masks for recycling in Spring 2021. The recycling program selected for the pilot is [TerraCycle's Zero Waste Box™ for Safety Equipment and Protective Gear](#). The laboratories and core administrative departments participating in the pilot were selected based on their field of research and scope of work, which was free of bio or chemical contamination.



## Impacts

The material collection impacts will be updated as collection requests are completed. Impacts measured are projected to have a positive impact on waste diversion, greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, and cost savings. However, it is estimated that once the first set of 3 boxes are ready for shipment, the material collected will divert a combination of over 5,000 gloves and masks and divert approximately 34 kg of waste from the landfill. The recycled material will displace otherwise newly manufactured plastic and will reduce the GHG emissions associated with landfilling the material.

## Collection and Recycling Process



An illustration from TerraCycle shows the process followed for the [recycling program](#).

### Next steps

At the completion of the pilot in May 2022, the Sustainability Office and Health, Safety and Environment will take lessons learned from this pilot, identify similar labs and departments with high potential for glove and mask recycling, and experiment with rolling out the program at a larger scale.

[Contact](#) UBC Okanagan's Sustainability Office to be added to the future participant list.

Alternative [Mask Recycling](#) information.

### Sustainability Office

Okanagan Campus  
Office Modular 1 - 1157 Alumni Ave  
Kelowna, BC Canada V1V 1V7  
Tel 250 807 8938  
Email [sustainability.ok@ubc.ca](mailto:sustainability.ok@ubc.ca)



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